MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government kindly call for the information in regard to that matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, if the member considers it so important.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): May I inform the Government that that statement in the appendix is highly objectionable since it is false?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has been published since it formed part of the report submitted by the Police Commissioner.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government kindly ask the police officers who made the investigation to substantiate that statement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government will ask the Police Commissioner to investigate the question and make a report.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): May I know the places where the several protest meetings were held?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is not now available.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Only three places have been mentioned in the report. May I know whether meetings were held in any other place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is not here. If the member desires, the Government will call for the information.

Filling of a Clerk's Post in the Trivandrum Village Panchayat Court.

109. **MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of qualified Mahomedans who applied for a clerk's post in the Village Panchayat Court, Trivandrum, in the year 1102;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the candidate chosen for filling one of the vacancies which arose very recently is a nephew of the President of the Village Panchayat Court; and

(*c*) what his qualifications are and whether he has been in Travancore service on any previous occasion?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) None.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) He is a S. S. L. C. holder, eligible for admission to colleges, with a fair knowledge of shorthand and typewriting. He was acting as a clerk in the Village Panchayat and Bench Magistrates' Court, Trivandrum.

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MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): May I know whether any Mahomedan had applied?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): None, for the clerk's post.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*c*), may I know whether the appointment of the particular candidate has been sanctioned by the Government? Was it with the permission of the Government that this appointment was made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The President of the Panchayat Court asked for permission and that was given.

Export Duty on Copra.

110. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): With reference to the reply to my motion for the reduction of export duty on *copra* printed at page 426 of Vol. IX of the Council Proceedings, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Tour to England of Dewan Mr. M. E. Watts.

111. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Mr. M. E. Watts, the Dewan, had any State business to be transacted when he went last to England, and, if so, what it was;

(*b*) whether Mr. M. E. Watts has drawn any allowance for his journey to and from England, and, if so, what is the amount so drawn and why this allowance was given; and

(*c*) whether their attention has been drawn to an article contained in the *Sunday Times*, London, explaining the object of Mr. M. E. Watts's visit to England, and, if so, whether there is any truth in that statement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The answers are in the negative.

(*c*) The Government have seen no such article in the *Sunday Times*; but their attention was drawn to a gossip-writer's paragraph in the *Daily Express*, London. The statement is untrue.

Arrangement during the Absence of the Chief Engineer on Leave.

112. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) why an Assistant Engineer was asked to be in charge of the Chief Engineer's duties during his leave;

(*b*) whether it was on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer; and

(*c*) whether this Assistant Engineer granted casual leave to, and passed travelling allowance bills of, Executive Engineers during the period.

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